# NOAA Budget Trade-off DA

## **1NC**

### Habitat Restoration

#### NOAA Budget is tightening

Charles **Pekow 5-17**-14 (Washington DC correspondent for Washington monthly, Freelance reporter for Washington Examiner, published in the Washington Times, Government Reporter for several papers, House committee offers tight NOAA budget for 2015 http://www.examiner.com/article/house-committee-offers-tight-noaa-budget-for-2015) HSM

Federal help for fishermen may get reduced next year. **The House Appropriations Committee approved a** Commerce, Justice, **Science** & Related Agencies **Appropriations Act**, 2015 (H.R. 4660) **that would slightly increase the** National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (**NOAA)** discretionary funds **budget.** But the bill would keep it below what the Obama Administration had requested. And it would cut the budget for fishing and related programs.¶ **The** Republican-dominated committee reported a **bill** that **would give** NOAA's discretionary accounts **$5.3**2512 **billion, an increase of only $10.5**14 **million,** not enough to keep up with inflation. **The administrationhad requested** **an increase of $163.6**15 **million.**

#### Link – Plan Trades Off; NOAA Endangered species Conservation set to be slashed

Woglom 1-18(Emily, Vice President, Conservation Policy and Programs, for Ocean Conservancy. 1-18-2014, “Does the 2014 Budget Bill Support a Healthy Ocean?”, Ocean Conservancy, http://blog.oceanconservancy.org/2014/01/18/does-the-2014-budget-bill-support-a-healthy-ocean/)SJC

Some good news coming from this bill is that Congress has more than fully funded the National Weather Service. So the “dry side” of NOAA fared quite well. However, NOAA’s “wet side” programs in the National Ocean Service and National Marine Fisheries Service took a significant hit. NMFS faces a $34 million shortfall while the NOS will have to deal with a $25 million shortfall. These are especially concerning figures considering the fact that these two services represent a large portion of NOAA’s wet side. Here are just a few examples of what the ocean loses as a result: Regional Ocean Partnership grants will be cut completely by the proposed budget, leaving coastal states’ coordinated ocean-use planning completely unfunded. Ocean acidification research stagnates. Funds to study ocean acidification will remain at last year’s insufficient (sequestration) levels. This crucially-important scientific research helps coastal communities cope with the growing problem and enjoys broad support. Endangered marine species left under-protected. Funding for the Species Recovery Grant Program has declined sharply over the last few years.. This year’s budget increases funding for the program only slightly over 2013 levels, keeping it far below historic levels and at a $12 million shortfall. The program provides money to states to help them manage threatened and endangered species such as right whales, monk seals, southern sea otters, and many other important animals.

### Impact Scenario 1: Food Security

#### Loss of oceanic habitat restoration causes food insecurity

Tina **Farmer** 4/22/**14 (**FAO Information Officer, Head of Fishing and aquaculture, Rome, Italy, “Global Oceans Action Summit for Food Security and Blue Growth opens in The Hague” http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/224779/icode/ 4/22/2014) HSM

On average, **17 percent of global animal protein intake comes from fish**eries and aquaculture, **and demand for fish protein is expected to double in the next 20 years, yet some 28 percent of** global **stocks are already overfished**. ¶ **At the same time, climate change is threatening biodiversity**, **altering habitats and changing the productivity of our fisheries**. ¶ “**Healthy oceans have a central role to play in solving one of the biggest problems of the 21st century – how to feed 9 billion people by 2050**,” said Árni M. Mathiesen, Assistant Director-General for Fisheries and Aquaculture at the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

#### And, Starvation is the biggest impact—intense suffering as it kills

Holman 99 Susan, The Hungry Body: Famine, Poverty, and Identity in Basil’s Hom. Journal of Early Christian Studies 7:3, 337–363 © 1999 The Johns Hopkins University Press. Project Muse

Hunger, by which I here mean an acutely perceived physical need for food, determines bodily processes perhaps more than any other characteristic of poverty. Further, hunger may shape not only the physical body of starving individuals but also the interactive dynamics of the starving group in the larger social body of the community.15 Whether famine in Cappadocia was rare or not, Basil implies in Hom. 8 that mortality from starvation was soon a serious and visible problem. The famine hunger Basil depicts is, as he sees it, the supreme human calamity, a more miserable end than all other deaths. For when one considers other life-threatening calamities, the sword brings a quick end; fire too extinguishes life shortly; and also wild beasts, as they rend the limbs apart with their teeth inflict fatal wounds which assure that distress will not be prolonged. But famine is a slow evil, always approaching, always holding off like a beast in its den. The heat of the body cools. The form shrivels. Little by little strength diminishes. Flesh stretches across the bones like a spider web. The skin loses its bloom, as the rosy appearance fades and blood melts away. Nor is the skin white but rather it withers into black. . . . The knees no longer support but drag themselves by force, the voice is powerless . . . eyes sunken as if in a casket, like dried-up nuts in their shells; the empty belly collapsed, conforming itself to the shape of the backbone without any natural elasticity of the bowels. The person who rushes by such a body, how greatly worthy is he of chastisement? What excess of cruelty will he allow? Should he not be reckoned with the savagery of the beasts, accursed and a homicide?16 This involuntary starvation effects a different set of individual and social dynamics from what one finds in ascetic fasting, that individual choice undertaken for personal spiritual benefit. The starvation that results from famine and food shortage is at odds with individual will. While the ascetic choice is perceived as empowering, involuntary starvation effects dependence, self-destruction, and suffering for the entire social network, household, and family of those affected by such poverty and hunger. Where voluntary hunger constructs an ideal body, involuntary hunger destroys it. Basil’s sermon explores the long-term implications of this corporate destruction and its roots in injustice, a lack of power over both environmental and social forces.

### Impact Scenario 2: BioD

#### **Conservation Stops loss of biodiversity**

Nellemann et al. ‘10 (Christian, leads UNEP's Rapid Response Assessments from UNEP's GRID Arendal Centre, 2010, “Dead Planet, Living Planet – Biodiversity and Ecosystem Restoration for Sustainable Development”, UNEP, http://www.unep.org/pdf/RRAecosystems\_screen.pdf) SJC

The conservation of biodiversity is recognised as important due to the role biodiversity plays in underpinning many of the ecosystem services which humans depend upon form their well-being (MA 2005). Furthermore, it is well documented globally that habitat loss is a direct driver of species loss, and one mechanism to bring species diversity back to a site is through restoration of the ecosystem or habitat (SER 2010). And while it has been documented that restoration does not necessary achieve the same value of biodiversity or ecosystem services found in intact ecosystems (Benayas et al 2009), there are many good examples of were informed ecological restoration programmes have been able to deliver biodiversity, including the recovery of threatened species and ecosystems (Lindenmayer et al. In press).

#### Loss of bioD causes extinction

Penn State ‘14(College of Earth and Mineral Sciences', “Human Extinction”, penn state, https://www.e-education.psu.edu/geog030/node/398) SJC

Biodiversity loss. Earlier in this module, we used the house of cards (or Jenga) metaphor for ecosystem resilience. As more species go extinct, it becomes more likely for ecosystems to collapse. Given how many species are endangered, it is difficult to put an upper limit on how severe the ecosystem collapses could be. The collapses could be so severe that human extinction is threatened. The current honey bee colony collapse situation illustrates this. Without honey bees, humans would struggle - and perhaps fail - to grow many important crops. As more biodiversity is lost, we may find ourselves learning the hard way how important it is to our civilization and indeed our very survival.

## 2NC

### Uniqueness

#### NOAA Budget is far below desired levels

Charles **Pekow 5-17**-14 (Washington DC correspondent for Washington monthly, Freelance reporter for Washington Examiner, published in the Washington Times, Government Reporter for several papers, House committee offers tight NOAA budget for 2015 http://www.examiner.com/article/house-committee-offers-tight-noaa-budget-for-2015) HSM

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#### NOAA drew the short straw for science budgeting

Matt **Hourihan 5-09** (Director of the American Association for the Advancement, Head of R&D Budget Analysis, Masters Degree in Public Policy with a focus on science and technology from George Mason University, “NASA, NSF Continue R&D Budget Recovery in House, But Climate Research Cut”, http://www.aaas.org/news/nasa-nsf-continue-rd-budget-recovery-house-climate-research-cut) HSM

**NOAA is the lone R&D agency** in the bill **that would receive** **a cut below** FY **2014 levels** in nominal dollars, albeit a very small one. Regarding research, **the steepest break** with the request **is a** recommended **$37.5 million cut from** FY 2014 levels to **climate research** within the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research; most other accounts would be funded at or near the request.

#### Uniqueness-NOAA Budget Low killing the Coast

**Woglom 13**(Emily Woglom, VP for Conservation Policy and Programs at Ocean Conservancy, 7-9-2013, “Three Questions to Ask About NOAA Funding” The Blog Aquatic) EAM

**Despite being one of the most important agencies to our ocean**, **NOAA has faced significant funding cuts** in recent years, and it is likely that the House will attempt to steeply cut NOAA’s budget again this year. With the sequestration, **NOAA’s budget is already hovering at** 13 percent below the current request for $5.4 billion**. This bill could demand even lower numbers.¶ NOAA’s mission of protecting, restoring and managing our ocean and coasts is vitally important to our ocean and coastal economies, which contribute more than $258 billion annually to the nation’s** **gross** **d**omestic **p**roduct **and support 2.7 million jobs** through fisheries and seafood production, tourism, recreation, transportation and construction.¶ Adequate funding for NOAA is critically important to the health of our nation’s ocean and coasts, and the economies and communities that depend on them. Cutting resources will cost us—now and in the future.

### Link XTN

#### **Link – affirmative plan utilizes the NOAA budget and sends habitat restoration, which is on the chopping block, to the depths**

Benait ‘12(Jeff, former director of office of NOAA current CEO and president of Restore America’s Estuaries, May 2012, “President's Letter: Poor Budget Decisions Threaten to Reverse Habitat Restoration Progress”, Restore America’s Estuaries, http://www.estuaries.org/presidents-letter-poor-budget-decisions-threaten-to-reverse-habitat-restoration-progress.html) SJC

In this time of austerity when many federal Agencies are seeing reductions to their overall funding, **NOAA is** actually **requesting 5.5% in additional funding in FY 2013**. Despite this increase, several conservation programs are proposed for elimination and some on-the-ground **habitat restoration** funding is **slated to be cut more than 85%.** These cuts are disproportionate and shortsighted. But who’s actually responsible for these recommendations?

### Solvency XTNS

#### Conservation crucial for healthy ecosystem

NOAA 14 (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NOAA, “Habitat—What’s it Worth,” <http://www.habitat.noaa.gov/abouthabitat/ecosystemservices.html>

It’s easy to understand why healthy coastal and marine habitat is important for fish and wildlife, but what value do we place on habitat for ourselves? Though we often take it for granted, nature clearly plays a significant role in our lives whether we are eating seafood from a nearby estuary or vacationing at our favorite beach—examples of benefits we receive from healthy coastal and marine ecosystems. Today, you might hear these benefits referred to as ecosystem services.¶ We conserve habitat to make sure the benefits of our natural resources—or ecosystem services—are available for healthy coastal communities and future generations. And, the work of conserving habitat makes a positive contribution to our economy by generating “green” jobs and making sure coastal resources are available for industries such as fishing and tourism.¶ What are Ecosystem Services?¶ Ecosystem services are the contributions that a biological community and its habitat provide to our day-to-day lives. Defining ecosystem services is dependent on human values. Examples of ecosystem services that directly benefit people include food, medicine, recreation, and storm protection. Other ecosystem services are less tangible, such as habitat’s role in absorbing carbon from the atmosphere—a positive effect on our global climate.¶ Our attitudes, beliefs, behaviors, customs, and traditions are often associated with the surrounding nature and environmental quality. Coastal habitat has long been significant to us beyond harvesting fish and other coastal products. Though it can be difficult to apply dollars and cents to nature’s splendor and tranquility, we cannot forget its importance to the social and cultural well-being of our society.¶ What is Our Role?¶ With healthy habitat under threat nationwide, we can no longer take ecosystem services for granted. Our goal is to enhance coastal resource management decisions by demonstrating the social and economic contributions of healthy habitat on:

### NOAA Key to maintaining Ocean

#### NOAA Key to Oceans

**Sullivan 14**(Kathryn Sullivan, Head of NOAA, “Dear Friends of NOAA”, NOAA BlueBook)

Dear Friends of NOAA,

**While the economy has shown signs of recovery over the past year, continued ¶ fiscal uncertainty and tight budgets mean that government agencies, like so many ¶ families and businesses across the country, still face tough choices. At NOAA, we’re ¶ working to fulfill our core mission of science, service and stewardship and balance ¶ investments in current and future programs and services. ¶** Americans **in all 50 states and territories have come to rely on NOAA**’s products and ¶ services on a daily basis. Across all of NOAA, our employees and partners work day ¶ in and day out to foster scientific discovery, support economic vitality, and protect ¶ our planet’s resources for future generations. ¶ **NOAA provides the environmental intelligence that helps citizens, businesses, and ¶ governments make smart choices. Just as every citizen depends on NOAA for ¶ weather information, so, too, do businesses rely on NOAA’s services. The fishing ¶ and shipping industries count on NOAA’s nautical charts and information about tides ¶ and currents before heading to sea. Farmers depend on our long-range forecasts ¶ and information about the drought to inform decisions. The entire country relies ¶ on NOAA’s observations and products to keep goods moving safely and efficiently ¶ through our ports. ¶ While we still face significant challenges and an uncertain budget environment, the ¶ fiscal year 2014 budget request shows that we have listened to our stakeholders, ¶ exercised the necessary strong fiscal discipline and worked hard to make the right ¶ investments for the whole of NOAA. This year’s budget request of approximately ¶ $5.4 billion aims to: 1) ensure the readiness, responsiveness, and resiliency of ¶ communities from coast to coast; 2) help protect lives and property; and, 3) support ¶ vibrant coastal communities and economies.¶ Ready, Responsive, and Resilient Communities¶ Last year’s onslaught of severe weather events caused widespread damage and ¶ devastated families and businesses. These losses highlighted the need for communities across the nation to become more ready, more resilient, and more responsive.¶ One recent example is Hurricane/Post-Tropical Cyclone Sandy (Hurricane Sandy). ¶ Hurricane Sandy demonstrated the value NOAA brings to society, as the whole ¶ agency mobilized to help the public prepare for, respond to, and initiate recovery ¶ from the storm**. In the weeks prior to Hurricane Sandy, NOAA satellites and observ¶ -¶ ing platforms provided the vital data needed for our forecast enterprise to predict ¶ the path and intensity of the storm and all its impacts. Once Hurricane Sandy ¶ passed through the Northeast, NOAA worked side-by-side with Federal, State, and ¶ local agencies to aid the area’s recovery. Our ships surveyed ports and harbors so ¶ that maritime commerce could resume. Our aircraft re-mapped the coastal zones, ¶ speeding the flow of aid to damaged communities and homeowners. Our environ¶ -¶ mental response teams responded to oil and hazmat spills and assessed environ¶ -

## Impact XTNs

### Food Security

#### Healthy Ocean key to fish survival

**NOAA** 20**14** (NOAA page on healthy aquatic ecosystems, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, http://www.habitat.noaa.gov/protection/efh/index.html, updated 2014) HSM

**Fish require healthy surroundings to survive and reproduce**. Essential fish habitat includes all types of aquatic habitat—wetlands, coral reefs, seagrasses, rivers—where fish spawn, breed, feed, or grow to maturity.¶ **NOAA Fisheries works with the regional fishery management** councils **to identify the essential habitat for every life stage of each federally managed species** using the best available scientific information. **Essential fish habitat has been described for approximately 1,000 managed species** to date.¶ **NOAA** and the councils **also identified** more than **100 “habitat areas of particular concern**” or HAPCs. **These are considered high priority areas for conservation, management, or research because they are rare, sensitive, stressed by development, or important to ecosystem function.**

#### Fish is key to the future of the Food Supply

**Subasinghe 13** (Senior Aquaculture officer, fisheries and aquaculture department, FAO, ICCF, “Fish and Food Security” http://iccfoundation.us/index.php?option=com\_content&view=article&id=499:fish-and-food-security&catid=73:briefings-2013&Itemid=81) HSM

**To feed a world of 9 billion** people **in 2050**, agricultural **output**, **originating from** crops, livestock and **fisheries, including aquaculture, must increase by over 60%,** **and there is a consensus among** **the scientific community that** foods derived from **aquatic resources have a significant role to play across the food supply** and value chain.¶ **Meeting this target is a formidable challenge** for the international community **considering that an alarming number of people**, mostly in developing countries, **still suffer from hunger and poverty**.¶ Producing, processing and distributing the current global supply of 128 million tonnes of food fish provide direct and indirect employment to over 50 million people worldwide, and create livelihood for over 200 million more. **Fish contributes about 16% to the world’s animal protein intake, and is the main source of animal protein along with essential** **micronutrients** and fatty acids **for three billion people**.¶ Since the contribution of capture fisheries to global food fish supplies has leveled off, **the supply gap in food fish** **has been bridged** **by** the growth in **aquaculture production**. Aquaculture now shares 47% of the global food fish supply, a 13% increase over the past decade. It continues to be the fastest growing food production sector in the world at nearly 6.5% a year.

### bioD Extension/Add-on

#### Loss of biodiversity creates extinction level diseases

Huang ‘10(Lily, writer for newsweek, 3-13-10, “Lack of Biodiversity May Make Us Sicker,” Newsweek, http://www.newsweek.com/lack-biodiversity-may-make-us-sicker-80351) SJC

The reason this has yet to happen in our lifetimes is that, brilliant as nature is at devising ways to kill, it has also come up with countless ways to cope and survive. Put all the living species together and you have an impressive array of mechanisms to fend off pathogens or contain them in particular ecosystems that have defenses built in. This arrangement, however, is now under serious threat: humans, moving ever deeper into the wild to level forests, extract minerals and plant crops, are changing the balance of ecosystems the world over and taking these defenses apart. These warped ecologies become ground zero for new and deadly infectious diseases, which emerge and spread at an ever-greater rate. This amounts to "Armageddon in slow motion," says Eric Chivian, head of the Center for Health and the Global Environment at Harvard Medical School. Chivian, who shared the Nobel Peace Prize in 1985 for alerting the public to the dangers of nuclear proliferation, now says the danger to human health posed by a degraded planet is "no less devastating than a nuclear war … the ultimate impact might be just as catastrophic."

#### Destroying biodiversity causes loss of vital stuff for life

Chivian ‘11(Eric, nobel peace prize winner and Director of Project on Global Environmental Change and Health, 2011, “Species Extinction, Biodiversity Loss and Human Health”, ILO Encyclopaedia of occupational health and safety, <http://www.ilo.org/oshenc/part-vii/environmental-health-hazards/item/505-species-extinction-biodiversity-loss-and-human-health)SJC>

In addition to the ethical issues involved - that we have no right to kill off countless other organisms, many of which came into being tens of millions of years prior to our arrival -  this behaviour is ultimately self-destructive, upsetting the delicate ecological balance on which all life depends, including our own, and destroying the biological diversity that makes soils fertile, creates the air we breathe and provides food and other life-sustaining natural products, most of which remain to be discovered.

# Affirmative Answers

### Non-Uniqueness Claims

#### Non-Unique: NOAA is loaded for 2015 says Sullivan Herself

Sullivan 14 (Dr. Kathryn Sullivan, Under-Secretary for Department of Commerce, Administrator of NOAA, head of NOAA, “FY 2015 BUDGET SUMMARY” http://www.corporateservices.noaa.gov/~nbo/fy15\_bluebook/FY2015BudgetSummary-small.pdf) HSM

#### NOAA’s FY 2015 budget request of approximately $5.5 billion aims not only to enhance public safety and community resiliency, but also to make smart investments via innovative science and research to better position NOAA for the future. This budget request continues efforts to strike the right balance between our oceanic and atmospheric missions, our internal and extramural programs, and our long-range and short-term research investments, while maintaining strong fiscal discipline. In the FY 2015 budget, we focus our investments in three areas: infrastructure, innovation, and services.

#### **Non-UQ NOAA programs still heavily funded**

**OCRM 13** (Ocean and Coastal Resource Management department of the NOAA, updated January 2013, “FY 2012 OCRM Budget Allocations by programs” http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/funding/welcome.html) HSM

**OCRM awards four types of funding to** the nation’s 34 **state** and territory state **coastal zone management programs,** to protect, restore, and responsibly develop coastal communities and resources. **In** FY **2012**, **state c**oastal **m**anagement **p**rograms **received over $65 million** if federal funding **that supported a variety of critical coastal management projects.**

#### **Non-UQ – US ocean conservation working now**

Kerry 6-9(John, US Secretary of State, 6-9-14, “Opinion: Saving Our Future By Saving Our Oceans,” national geographic, http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2014/06/140609-john-kerry-opinion-ocean-conference-science/) SJC

The United States has demonstrated that we can make progress. We have begun to restore fish stocks and sustain the livelihoods of our fishermen. We have reduced the flow of waste into the marine environment and launched intensive studies of the effects of rising acidity levels on sea life. Some other nations are also addressing the challenges in innovative ways.

### No Link

#### No Link – Obama is already zoning ocean areas for marine development

**Winter 10**(Allison Winter, Writer New York Times, “Noaa Grant Program Could Launch Marine Zoning” NYTimes)

**The Obama administration is proposing a grant program that could start zoning marine areas for offshore projects.****The White House released a fiscal 2011 budget proposal this week that includes $20 million in grants for regional ocean partnerships. The competitive grants would support planning for marine zoning.¶** Advocates of the zoning effort say the proposal -- a small part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's $5.55 billion annual budget -- would be a big step toward helping improving the marine management.¶ **"This is a substantial investment," said Emily Woglom of the Nature Conservancy. "It would make it possible for regions to start marine spatial planning frameworks."¶** The new program is being proposed at a time when the administration says it is attempting to hold down agency spending. The overall budget proposal for NOAA is 15 percent higher than last year's funding levels, but almost all new money would go to purchase new satellites.¶ The administration's proposal would reduce overall funding for NOAA's operations and research account, which pays for all programs and functions beyond purchasing. The administration is proposing $3.4 billion for operations and research, a cut of $5 million from fiscal 2010 levels.

#### No Link – NOAA growing external partnerships anyways

**Reisner 14** (NOAA Budget Director, Part of the introduction to the 2015 Blue Book, Published on the NOAA website, “FY 2015 BUDGET SUMMARY” http://www.corporateservices.noaa.gov/~nbo/fy15\_bluebook/FY2015BudgetSummary-small.pdf) HSM

**The** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s¶ (**NOAA**) Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 **budget**¶ **request continues to restore balance** between¶ oceanic and atmospheric missions **while** maintaining¶ and **growing** critical **external partnerships in the¶ pursuit of cutting edge research** **and environmental**¶ **stewardship**. **For** FY **2015, NOAA proposes** a budget¶ of $5,496.7 million, **an increase of $174.1 million**, or 3.2¶ percent **above the FY 2014 Enacted**. **Our submission¶ makes** critical **investments** **in infrastructure**, services¶ that enhance **public safety and community resiliency**,¶ **and in innovations that** will **position NOAA for the future**¶ and promote operational excellence. For more¶ information about specific FY 2015 investments, please¶ refer to individual line office chapters or the tables in¶ Appendix 3.

### AT Impacts

#### Biodiversity Alt Cause – Acidification; Only the aff solves the DA impact

**Knight 10** (Matthew Knight, CNN Journalist “Oceans Failing The Acid Test U.N says” CNN, 12/02/10, http://edition.cnn.com/2010/WORLD/americas/12/02/ocean.acidification.threat.cancun/) EAM/HSM

**The chemistry of the world's oceans is changing at a rate not seen for 65 million years, with far-reaching implications for marine biodiversity and food security, according to a new United Nations study released Thursday.¶ "Environmental Consequences of Ocean Acidification," published by the U.N. Environmental Program (UNEP)," warns that some sea organisms including coral and shellfish will find it increasingly difficult to survive, as acidification shrinks the minerals needed to form their skeletons.¶** Lead author of the report Carol Turley, from the UK's Plymouth Marine Laboratory said in a statement: "We are seeing an overall negative impact from ocean acidification directly on organisms and on some key ecosystems that help provide food for billions. We need to start thinking about the risk to food security."¶ **Tropical reefs provide shelter and food for around a quarter of all known marine fish species, according to the U.N. report, while over one billion people rely on fish as a key source of protein. ¶ Ocean acidification is yet another red flag being raised, carrying planetary health warnings about the uncontrolled growth in greenhouse gas emissions --Achim Steiner, UNEP executive director ¶** Increasing acidification is likely to affect the growth and structural integrity of coral reef, the study says, and coupled with ocean warming could limit the habitats of crabs, mussels and other shellfish with knock-on effects up and down the food chain.¶ The report, unveiled during the latest round of U.N. climate talks in Cancun, Mexico, says that around a quarter of the world's CO2 emissions are currently being absorbed by the oceans, where they are turned into carbonic acid.¶ Overall, pH levels in seas and oceans worldwide have fallen by an average of 30 percent since the Industrial Revolution. The report predicts that by the end of this century ocean acidity will have increased 150 percent, if emissions continue to rise at the current rate.¶ But scientists say there may well be winners and losers as acidification doesn't affect all sea creatures in the same way.¶ Adult lobsters, for example, may increase their shell-building as pH levels fall, as might brittle stars -- a close relation of the starfish -- but at the cost of muscle formation.¶ "The ability, or inability, to build calcium-based skeletons may not be the only impact of acidification on the health and viability of an organism: brittle stars perhaps being a case in point," Turley said in a statement.¶ "It is clearly not enough to look at a species. Scientists will need to study all parts of the life-cycle to see whether certain forms are more or less vulnerable."¶ Scientists are more certain about the fate of photosynthetic organisms such as seagrasses, saying they are likely to benefit from rising acidification and that some creatures will simply adapt to the changing chemistry of the oceans. ¶ The authors identify a range of measures which policymakers need to consider to stop pH levels falling further, including "rapid and substantial cuts" to CO2 emissions as well as assessing the vulnerability of communities which rely on marine resources.¶ **"Ocean acidification is yet another red flag being raised, carrying planetary health warnings about the uncontrolled growth in greenhouse gas emissions. It is a new and emerging piece in the scientific jigsaw puzzle, but one that is triggering rising concern," Achim Steiner, UNEP executive director, said in a statement.**

#### Reducing carbon emission solves conservation

NOAA 11 (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 5-13-11, NOAA, “Addressing Key Threats,” <http://coralreef.noaa.gov/conservation/keythreats/>

Climate change impacts threaten coral reef ecosystems by increasing ocean temperatures, storm activity, ocean acidification, and sea-level rise. These physical ocean changes lead to coral bleaching and diseases. Increasing atmospheric carbon dioxide has already begun to reduces calcification Increasing atmospheric carbon dioxide reduces calcification rates in reef-building and reef-associated organisms by altering sea water chemistry through decreases in pH ([ocean acidification](http://coralreefwatch.noaa.gov/satellite/oa/description/oaps_intro_oa.html" \t "_blank)). In the long term, failure to address the impacts of rising temperatures and ocean acidification could make many other management efforts futile.¶ Reducing greenhouse gases (primarily carbon dioxide) will be required to avoid irreversible climate-change effects. While regulating emissions falls outside of the NOAA's mandate, NOAA has a clear role to monitor climate change and ocean acidification, project their impacts on ecological and human systems, and develop ways to address these impacts that support local, national, and international policy. Unfortunately, we can expect at least another 1°C/1.8°F temperature rise within this century from the greenhouse gases already released. Therefore it is essential that we not only reduce emissions, but take urgent actions to reduce the impact of elevated greenhouse gases on coral reef ecosystems.

#### **The Nature Conservancy is already conserving environments everywhere – They Solve**

The nature conservancy ‘14(global conservation group, 2014, “About Us”, TNC, http://www.nature.org/about-us/index.htm?intc=nature.tnav.about)SJC

The Nature Conservancy is the leading conservation organization working around the world to protect ecologically important lands and waters for nature and people. We address the most pressing conservation threats at the largest scale. Thanks to the support of our more than 1 million members, we’ve built a tremendous record of success since our founding in 1951: We've protected more than 119 million acres of land and thousands of miles of riversworldwide — and we operate more than 100 marine conservation projects globally. We work in all 50 states and more than 35 countries — protecting habitats from grasslands to coral reefs, from Australia to Alaska to Zambia. [See where we work.](http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/index.htm) We address threats to conservation involving climate change, fresh water, oceans, and conservation lands. [Learn how we're responding.](http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/index.htm) Why We're Successful It's who we are and how we work that has made the Conservancy so successful — and makes us optimistic that we can expand that great conservation work to meet the challenges ahead: Everything we do is rooted in good science — aided by our hundreds of staff scientists. [Dive deeper into our science](http://www.nature.org/science-in-action/index.htm). We pursue non-confrontational, pragmatic solutions to conservation challenges. [Learn why we're so effective](http://www.nature.org/about-us/why-were-effective/index.htm). We partner with indigenous communities, businesses, governments, multilateral institutions, and other non-profits. [Learn more about our partnerships](http://www.nature.org/about-us/our-partners/index.htm). We have the support of more than 1 million members who enable us to continue working on a scale that matters and implement solutions that endure. [Find out how you can support our work](https://support.nature.org/site/Donation2?idb=737086116&df_id=4560&4560.donation=form1). [Our Accountability](http://www.nature.org/about-us/our-accountability/index.htm) The Conservancy's strong performance is recognized by Charity Navigator as exceeding or meeting industry standards.

#### **World Wildlife fund is already doing work**

WWF ‘14(World wildlife fund, 2014, “About Us”, WWF, http://www.worldwildlife.org/about)SJC

We seek to save a planet, a world of life. Reconciling the needs of human beings and the needs of others that share the Earth, we seek to practice conservation that is humane in the broadest sense. We seek to instill in people everywhere a discriminating, yet unabashed, reverence for nature and to balance that reverence with a profound belief in human possibilities. From the smallest community to the largest multinational organization, we seek to inspire others who can advance the cause of conservation. We seek to be the voice for those creatures who have no voice. We speak for their future. We seek to apply the wealth of our talents, knowledge, and passion to making the world wealthier in life, in spirit, and in living wonder of nature. **Goal and Strategies** By 2020, WWF will conserve many of the world’s most ecologically important regions by working in partnership with others to: Protect and restore species and their habitats Strengthen local communities' ability to conserve the natural resources they depend upon Transform markets and policies to reduce the impact of the production and consumption of commodities Ensure that the value of nature is reflected in decisions made by individuals, communities, governments and businesses Mobilize hundreds of millions of people to support conservation

#### **RSPB is already doing work**

RSPB 3-31(Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, 3-31-2014, “About Us”, RSPB, http://www.rspb.org.uk/about/)SJC

Facts and figures Over a million members, including over 195,000 youth members. A staff of over 1,300 people and almost 18,000 volunteers. Resources available for charitable purposes in 2010 was £94.7 million. 200 nature reserves covering almost 130,000 hectares, home to 80% of our rarest or most threatened bird species. A UK headquarters, three national offices and nine regional offices. A local network of 175 local groups and more than 110 youth groups. At least 9 volunteers for every paid member of staff.

#### Oceana is already doing successful work

Oceana 6-2014(Oceana, 6-2014, “Our Victories”, Oceana, http://oceana.org/en/about-us/our-victories)SJC

President Obama Announces Initiative to Tackle Seafood Fraud and Illegal Fishing at Global “Our Ocean” Conference June, 2014 President Obama announced an initiative to tackle seafood fraud and illegal fishing in the United States. The announcement, which was made at the global “Our Ocean” conference hosted by Secretary of State John Kerry, directs federal agencies to work together to develop a comprehensive program aimed at combatting seafood fraud and keeping illegal fish out of the U.S. market. Since 2011, Oceana has worked to expose seafood fraud in the U.S. In a nationwide study released last year, Oceana found that 33 percent of the more than 1,200 seafood samples it tested were mislabeled, according to Food and Drug Administration guidelines. Oceana hails today’s announcement as a huge victory for our wallets, our health, and our oceans. Read Press Release Oceana Wins Bycatch Victories From Northeast Fisheries Managers April, 2014 The New England Fishery Management Council took an important step forward for ocean conservation by agreeing to allocate $800,000 to support fishery research in the struggling groundfish fishery for cod, haddock and flounder. The Council has funds to support several projects and included bycatch reduction and solutions as themes in the call for research proposals. This action comes only a month after Oceana released a report exposing nine of the dirtiest bycatch fisheries in the U.S., which included two New England fisheries—the Northeast Bottom Trawl and New England and Mid-Atlantic Gillnet fisheries, which discard 35 percent and 16 percent of what they catch, respectively. Recommendations adopted by the Council include solutions Oceana had called for in the report, such as bycatch avoidance, like hotspot identification and management, and bycatch minimization through gear improvements. Additionally, in response to intense industry interest in fishing in areas currently closed, the Council included guidance to safeguard marine habitats in any research funded in this program. New England to Require Bycatch Reporting April, 2014 The New England Fishery Management Council also approved an action implementing the federally mandated Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology (SBRM). In its final approval the Council included clear guidance to the National Marine Fisheries Service that bycatch information should be specific to particular stocks of fish and connected to the management of the fisheries. This is a significant improvement over past Agency reports that were far too generic to be useful. Without accurate and precise information about bycatch, fisheries managers cannot do their jobs effectively. This action by the Council recognizes this need and gives clear direction to the federal government that high-quality information is necessary. Oceana has worked for years to ensure that SBRM is implemented in order to improve information about bycatch and will continue to push for other necessary improvements before the Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology is put in place in early 2015. Shark Fin Bans Upheld February, 2014 Last year, NOAA challenged state shark fin bans across the country, suggesting that they might be preempted, or overruled, by federal law. State shark fin laws protect sharks by banning the sale, trade, distribution and possession of shark fins, effectively shutting down the market for shark fins. In response to NOAAs actions, Oceana launched a public awareness campaign, running high-visibility Metro ads at stations near NOAA’s offices and sending a letter to NOAA signed by more than 24,000 activists urging the agency not to jeopardize state bans and their benefits for sharks. In early 2014 NOAA removed its challenge to California, Maryland and Washington’s shark fin laws. We are confident that NOAA will also drop their challenges in the remaining five states. Arctic Drilling Halted for 2014 January, 2014 In late January, Shell’s new CEO announced that the company will not pursue any exploration drilling in the Arctic Ocean in 2014. This news came days after the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals found that the Department of the Interior violated U.S. law in deciding to hold drilling Lease Sale 193, during which Shell and other oil companies purchased leases in the Chukchi Sea. This ruling is in response to a lawsuit filed by Oceana and a coalition of conservation and Alaska Native partners, represented by Earthjustice. Shell encountered numerous problems and violations during its 2012 exploration attempt, including an incident when its drilling rig, the Kulluk, ran aground during a winter storm. Currently, there is no proven technology that would allow companies to drill safely in the Arctic. Despite Shell’s attempts, no exploration wells have been completed in the Arctic Ocean in more than 20 years. Read Press Release EU Moves Away from Harmful Subsidies January, 2014 European Parliament and the Fisheries Council reached a political agreement on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund, the financial mechanism that will allow the implementation of the reformed Common Fisheries Policy over the next seven years. Previous fisheries subsidies schemes have given priority to short-term economic interests at the expense of sustainability, using taxpayer’s money to increase fleet capacity and fund overfishing. Oceana supports the efforts of the European Parliament and Council to stop this toxic pattern, and shift spending towards beneficial measures such as control and data collection. However, Oceana also acknowledges that the EU must move further to make a clean break from harmful subsidies, including recognizing risks associated with certain environmentally harmful subsidies, like those for new engines and the temporary cessation of fishing activity. Read Press Release Chile Establishes Science-based Fishing Quotas December, 2013 In late December, the Chilean government announced the first set of science-backed quotas for 2014. With guidance from scientific committees, the Chilean government set quotas for four critical species of fish: common hake, anchoveta, sardines, and jack mackerel. The reductions are dramatic—the government reduced the quota for common hake by 55 percent, for anchoveta by 65 percent in specific regions, and for sardines by 29 percent in specific regions. Chile’s first science-informed quotas are a tremendous step toward reforming fisheries and ensuring that the oceans remain a plentiful source of food. Mediterranean Deep-Sea Corals Protected December, 2013 Mediterranean countries and the EU decided to protect 11 species of deep-sea corals at the 18th COP to the Barcelona Convention. They also decided to implement the Action Plan on Dark Habitats, a scientific document drafted in part by Oceana, which will enable the creation of marine protected areas in deep-sea habitats like seamounts, submarine canyons, and caves. Many of these deep-sea habitats are unprotected, despite being extremely vulnerable to human activities like pollution, overfishing, and climate change. Read Press Release Pacific Sardine Catch Levels Decreased November, 2013 After campaigning by Oceana and our allies, the Pacific Fishery Management Council voted reduce the 2014 sardine catch levels by 33 percent to help halt dramatic declines in this important species. Since 2007, the Pacific sardine population has fallen by almost 979,000 tons and is at its lowest biomass in two decades, according to a population assessment released by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in October. Declines in the sardine population will negatively impact the many Pacific species that rely on these fish for food, including Chinook salmon, bluefin tuna, brown pelicans, dolphins, and large whales. Read Press Release Emergency Rules Implemented to Protect Endangered Sperm Whales from California Drift Gillnets September, 2013 On September 3, the National Marine Fisheries Service issued emergency regulations that will shut down California’s drift gillnet fishery if a single endangered sperm whale is caught. The fishery kills more whales and other marine mammals than any other fishery along the U.S. West Coast and has one of the highest bycatch rates in the country. These rules will also require independent observers on all drift gillnet vessels operating in offshore waters deeper than 6,500 feet. The rules will be enforced by requiring new vessel monitoring systems tracking the locations of all drift gillnet vessels off the U.S. West Coast. Seismic Airgun Use Prevented on the Atlantic Coast August, 2013 The Department of the Interior postponed a decision on whether to allow seismic airgun use in 300,000 square miles of ocean off the Atlantic coast. This is the third time Oceana has successfully helped delay the decision. The government’s estimates predict that seismic testing would disrupt critical behaviors like feeding, calving, and breeding for many marine creatures, including dolphins, whales, and loggerhead sea turtles. At least 138,500 dolphins and whales will be injured, or possibly killed, if airguns are allowed in the mid-Atlantic. Coastal fisheries in seven states would also be impacted, as airguns can lower catch rates between 40 and 80 percent. Marine Mammal Take Permits Denied for California Swordfish Drift Gillnet Fishery July, 2013 The National Marine Fisheries Service took a major step toward protecting sperm whales by declining to issue a required marine mammal take permit for California’s swordfish drift gillnet fishery. Last month the government issued a draft permit for the fishery to kill and seriously injure endangered sperm, fin, and humpback whales. More than 13,000 comments were submitted in opposition to the permit, prompting the NMFS to reverse course. This fishery catches and discards more than 100 protected whales, dolphins, seals, and sea lions on average each year, as well as thousands of sharks and other non-target fish. Read Press Release Trawling Ban in Key Habitats of the Balearic Islands July, 2013 The Spanish government issued a protection order to prohibit trawling on the summits of Mallorca Channel seamounts and in the coral reef east of Cabrera. Oceana fought for the protection of these beds for seven years. Until now these unique habitats, including coralligenous communities and rhodolites beds, were continuously subject to degradation because of illegal fishing. Read Press ReleaseCourt Upholds Protections for Steller Sea Lions in the Aleutian Islands July, 2013 On July 23, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld necessary protections for the endangered western population of Steller sea lions. The measures were put in place by the National Marine Fisheries Service in 2010 to reduce competition between large-scale commercial fisheries and endangered Steller sea lions. This population of sea lions has declined by more than 80 percent, and sharp declines continue in places with limited protection, like western Aleutian Islands. Oceana and Greenpeace, represented by Earthjustice, joined the federal government in successfully defending the regulations against legal attacks from the Seattle-based fishing industry and Alaskan state government. This victory will help ensure the recovery of this species and the continued health of our ocean’s ecosystems. Read Press Release Chinook Salmon Bycatch Limit Set for Gulf of Alaska Bottom Trawlers June, 2013 The bottom trawl fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska will now have to avoid catching Chinook salmon as bycatch or risk closing their fisheries. A new rule, recommended by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, establishes a limit on the number of Chinook salmon that can be killed as bycatch each year in the Central and Western Gulf of Alaska bottom trawl fisheries. If trawlers targeting rockfish, cod, and flatfish catch more than 7,500 Chinook salmon as bycatch they will have to stop fishing for the season. The rule also requires that all Chinook salmon caught by bottom trawlers be delivered to a processing facility, where observers will count the number of salmon and collect scientific data or biological samples. Read Press Release Dramatic Reforms for Europe's Fisheries February, 2013 The European Parliament approved major reforms to the Common Fishery Policy, a law that manages all European fisheries. Members overwhelmingly voted in favor of a comprehensive reform policy that includes amendments – many of which were drafted by Oceana – that require member states to fish all stocks at sustainable levels by 2015 and comply with a strong EU-wide discard ban, and puts an end to the practice of “discards”, throwing dead unwanted fish back into the sea. Oceana campaigned for years to make sure that this once in a decade opportunity to reform the failed EU fisheries policy was not wasted. Read Press Release Chilean Senate Passes Sweeping Fisheries Measures November, 2012 The Chilean senate passed sweeping new regulations that establish a more robust, science based fisheries regulatory regimen. The new laws will close all 118 of Chile’s seamounts to bottom trawling, impose science-based fishing quotas and drastically reduce the incidental capture and discard of unwanted species by improving monitoring on Chilean fishing vessels. Oceana has been pushing for all of these changes for years, and during the passage of this historic legislation our work was acknowledged by several senators as well as the Chilean Minister of the Economy. Castilla Power Plant Defeated by Chilean Supreme Court August, 2012 After a long battle by Oceana and allies, a planned coal-fired thermoelectric power plant in Northern Chile known as Castilla, was rejected by the Chilean Supreme Court. The Castilla plant was planned for the Punta Cachos region, just a few kilometers from important habitats for Humboldt penguins, sea turtles and one of Chile’s few seagrass meadows. As part of its operations, the plant would have released warm water into the ocean, which could have affected the entire ecosystem. Chile to Expand Marine Reserves April, 2012 The Chilean Government announced its intention to expand the Salas y Gómez marine reserve and to create a smaller reserve off the coast of Easter Island. The government also announced a plan to develop an assessment and status report of the main fisheries of Easter Island. The announcement follows several expeditions to the islands and years of campaigning by Oceana. Read Press Release Chile Reduces Jack Mackerel Overfishing October, 2010 The Chilean government announced a drastic reduction in the fishing quota for jack mackerel and other fisheries, starting in 2011. The decision came after Oceana sent the Minister of Economy a report analyzing the annual quota set for jack mackerel during the past 10 years. The study, put together with data that Oceana obtained through Chile’s Freedom of Information Act, shows that between 2003 and 2010 the National Fisheries Council set the annual quota for jack mackerel at higher catch limits than was recommended by the Institute for Fisheries Development. In fact, in 2009 the quota was 87 percent higher than what was recommended by the agency. Turkey Pledges to Eliminate Driftnets September, 2010 Following intense campaign work by Oceana, Turkey announced it will stop using drifnets in 2011. Oceana estimates that more than 500 vessels had been operating illegally in the Mediterranean, some with nets up to 12 miles long. In 2009, Oceana identified at least 30 Turkish vessels using driftnets in the Aegean and Mediterranean to target swordfish and bonito, and there are an estimated 70 to 150 vessels operating in the country. Read Press Release 23,000 Square Miles of Deep-sea Coral Protected in South Atlantic June, 2010 The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) approved a plan to protect more than 23,000 square miles of known deep sea coral from North Carolina to Florida from destructive fishing gear. The plan, proposed by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council in September 2009, will ban the use of bottom-damaging fishing gear in the largest known area of healthy deep sea coral ecosystems in the world, helping to ensure the productivity of commercial fisheries that depend on them. Read Press Release Deep-sea Coral Ecosystems Protected in South Atlantic September, 2009 The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council approved a plan to protect more than 23,000 square miles of known deep-sea coral from North Carolina to Florida from destructive fishing gear. Five years in the making, the vote will restrict the footprint of bottom trawls – one of the most nonselective fishing gears currently in use, capable of destroying thousand-year-old coral reefs and moving 18-ton rocks – and help to restore the long-term productivity of commercially valuable fish that take refuge in these rare corals. Read Press Release U.S. Sets Policy to Protect International Arctic Waters from Industrial Fishing June, 2008 President Bush established a U.S. policy to engage other Arctic nations and prevent the expansion of industrial fishing throughout international Arctic waters until further information is gathered about impacts. The policy in part states that "the decline of several commercially valuable fish stocks throughout the world's oceans highlights the need for fishing nations to conserve fish stocks and develop management systems that promote fisheries sustainability," and also states that until international agreement for managing Arctic fishing are in place, "...the United States should support international efforts to halt the expansion of commercial fishing activities in the high seas of the Arctic Ocean."